

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. and 2. (Cancelled) A method.
3. (Original) A method for automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer system, the method comprising:
obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of
properties;
automatically identifying a plurality of folders with
which the electronic message is to be associated by applying
rules to the properties of the electronic message; and,
automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to
the message, each of the shortcuts comprising an element
directly or indirectly identifying the message and an
element directly or indirectly identifying one of the
plurality of folders;
storing the shortcuts as records in a database;
~~according to claim 2~~ wherein at least one of the properties
comprises a date and the rules include a rule which
identifies one folder with which the message is to be
associated based upon a comparison of the property's date to
a current date.
4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3
comprising periodically and automatically generating new
shortcuts, each of the new shortcuts associating the message
to a folder based upon a comparison of the property's date
to a current date.

5. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 2 for~~
automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer
system, the method comprising:
obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of
properties;
automatically identifying a plurality of folders with
which the electronic message is to be associated by applying
rules to the properties of the electronic message; and,
automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to
the message, each of the shortcuts comprising an element
directly or indirectly identifying the message and an
element directly or indirectly identifying one of the
plurality of folders;
storing the shortcuts as records in a database;
wherein the data store holds a plurality of messages and the
method comprises receiving from a user folder selection
information identifying a selected one of the plurality of
folders, retrieving from the database a plurality of
shortcuts associated with the selected folder, each of the
shortcuts associated with a different one of the plurality
of messages, and displaying a representation of the
retrieved shortcuts on a display.
6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5 wherein
each of the shortcuts comprises a SortKey value and
retrieving from the database a plurality of shortcuts
comprises retrieving the plurality of shortcuts in order of
SortKey values of the retrieved shortcuts.
7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein
retrieving each of the plurality of groups from the database
comprises sequentially retrieving shortcuts associated with

the selected folder from the database in order of the SortKey value until either:

- a) a last shortcut associated with the selected folder has been retrieved from the database; or,
- b) at least a predetermined number of shortcuts has been retrieved from the database in a current group and the SortKey value for a most recently retrieved shortcut is different from the SortKey value for a second-most-recently retrieved shortcut.

8. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 1 for~~ automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer system, the method comprising:

obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties;

automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the electronic message; and,

automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message, each of the shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders;

wherein the folders comprise a plurality of date folders each associated with a different period, the method comprising automatically generating a shortcut to the message in each of the plurality of date folders for which the time associated with the message is between the beginning and the end of the folder's period.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein the date folders comprise a Today folder for which the period is a current day, a This Week folder for which the

period is a current week, a Yesterday folder for which the period is an immediately previous day and a Last Week folder for which the period is an immediately previous week.

10. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 1~~ for automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer system, the method comprising:

obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties;

automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the electronic message; and,

automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message, each of the shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders;

wherein the properties include a time and the method comprises identifying a period corresponding to the time associated with the message and creating a date folder associated with the identified period.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 5 wherein the record in the database has a length of 64 Bytes or less.
12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 5 wherein the record in the database has a length of 32 Bytes or less.
13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 5 wherein the record in the database has a length of 24 Bytes or less.

14. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 1~~ for automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer system, the method comprising:
obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties;
automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the electronic message; and,
automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message, each of the shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders;
wherein the message has an attachment and the shortcut additionally comprises an AttachId value identifying the attachment.
15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14 wherein the attachment is stored in a data store and the AttachId value is an address of the attachment in the data store.
16. (Previously Presented) method according to claim 14 wherein the attachment is stored in a data store and the AttachId value identifies a corresponding AttachmentSummary record in the database, wherein the AttachmentSummary record contains an address for the attachment in the data store.
17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14 comprising identifying a type of the attachment and automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding to the type of attachment.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17 comprising automatically creating the folder corresponding to the type of attachment.
19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3 wherein the shortcuts comprise entries in a Shortcut table having a primary key comprising a plurality of ordered fields.
20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19 wherein the primary key comprises MessageId + AttachId + FolderId, where AttachId is a field containing a value which associate the shortcut with an attachment to a message.
21. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 1~~ for automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer system, the method comprising:
 - obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties;
 - automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the electronic message; and,
 - automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message, each of the shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders;comprising, for a plurality of messages, identifying one or more addresses associated with the message and creating a shortcut to the message in a folder associated with each of the addresses.
22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 1~~ for automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer system, the method comprising:
- obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties;
 - automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the electronic message; and,
 - automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message, each of the shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders;
- comprising creating the shortcuts at least in folders associated with each of: a time associated with the message; a sender of the message; and a type of attachment associated with the message.
24. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 23 comprising identifying a status of the message and automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding to the status of the message.
25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 24 wherein the status of the message is selected from the group consisting of two or more of:
- a status that indicates the message is deleted,
 - a status that indicates that the message is active,
 - a status that indicates that the message is a draft,
 - a status that indicates that the message is to be kept,
 - a status that indicates that the message has been received,
 - a status that indicates that the message has been sent,

a status that indicates that the message has been tagged by a user,

a status that indicates that the message has been flagged by a user for follow up,

a status that indicates that the message is unread, and,

a status that indicates that the message is waiting to be sent.

26. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 24 wherein the computer system maintains two or more of:

an active mail folder for messages having a status that indicates the messages are active,

a kept mail folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages are to be kept,

a tagged mail folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages have been tagged by a user,

a todo folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages have been flagged by a user for follow up, and,

an unread ~~older~~ folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages are unread.

27. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 5 comprising identifying a status of the message and automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding to the status of the message.

28. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~26~~ 27 wherein the status of the message is selected from the group consisting of two or more of:

a status that indicates the message is deleted,

a status that indicates that the message is active,

a status that indicates that the message is a draft,
a status that indicates that the message is to be kept,
a status that indicates that the message has been received,
a status that indicates that the message has been sent,
a status that indicates that the message has been tagged by a user,
a status that indicates that the message has been flagged by a user for follow up,
a status that indicates that the message is unread,
and,
a status that indicates that the message is waiting to be sent.

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 24 28 wherein the computer system maintains two or more of:
an active mail folder for messages having a status that indicates the messages are active,
a kept mail folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages are to be kept,
a tagged mail folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages have been tagged by a user,
a todo folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages have been flagged by a user for follow up, and,
an unread older for messages having a status that indicates that the messages are unread.
30. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 2~~ for automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer system, the method comprising:
obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties;

automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the electronic message; and,
automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message, each of the shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders;

storing the shortcuts as records in a database;
wherein the folders comprise a plurality of date folders each associated with a different period, the method comprising automatically generating a shortcut to the message in each of the plurality of date folders for which the time associated with the message is between the beginning and the end of the folder's period.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 30 wherein the date folders comprise a Today folder for which the period is a current day, a This Week folder for which the period is a current week, a Yesterday folder for which the period is an immediately previous day a Last Week folder for which the period is an immediately previous week and a Month folder for which the period is a current month.

32. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 1~~ for automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer system, the method comprising:

obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties;

automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the electronic message; and,

automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message, each of the shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders;

wherein the message has an attachment and the method comprises identifying a type of the attachment and automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding to the type of the attachment.

33. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 32 wherein the method comprises storing the shortcuts as records in a database ~~message has an attachment and the method comprises identifying a type of the attachment and automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding to the type of the attachment.~~

34. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 1~~ for automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer system, the method comprising:

obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties;

automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the electronic message; and,

automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message, each of the shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders;

wherein the message is associated with one or more keywords and the method comprises automatically creating a shortcut

to the message in a folder corresponding to at least one of the keywords.

35. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 34 wherein the message is associated with a plurality of keywords and the method comprises automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding to each of the plurality of keywords.
36. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 34 wherein the method comprises storing the shortcuts as records in a database ~~message is associated with one or more keywords and the method comprises automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding to at least one of the keywords.~~
37. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 36 wherein the message is associated with a plurality of keywords and the method comprises automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding each of the plurality of keywords.
38. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 21 wherein the method comprises storing the shortcuts as records in a database comprising, for a plurality of messages, identifying one or more addresses associated with the message and creating a shortcut to the message in a folder associated with each of the addresses.
39. (Cancelled)